

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



LIBRARY OF THE  
OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS

JUN 28 1953

EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

# CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

~ ~ CALIFORNIA ~ ~



Bell tower of the Mission San Antonio de Pala, founded 1816

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

# NATIONAL FOREST VISITORS

## FREE PUBLIC USE OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS IS INVITED

---

*Visitors are required to observe the following rules:*

1. Be sure you have a camp-fire permit before building a fire on national forest land. The nearest forest officer will issue one to you without charge.
2. Build small fires. Build them only where permitted.
3. Before leaving a fire extinguish it with water and cover the ashes with earth.
4. Be careful with lighted matches, cigar and cigarette stubs, and pipe heels.
5. Keep your camp clean. Where garbage pits and incinerators are not provided, burn or bury all garbage and refuse.
6. Do not pollute the springs, streams, or lakes by insanitary acts.
7. Do not mutilate the trees or the signs and improvements around camps.
8. Observe the State fish and game laws.
9. Do not hunt in the vicinity of forest camps.
10. Drive carefully on mountain roads.

HELP KEEP THE FORESTS CLEAN AND GREEN
--

# CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

~ ~ CALIFORNIA ~ ~

---

---

The Cleveland National Forest, named in honor of President Grover Cleveland, is one of the oldest of the Federal forests, a portion of it having been withdrawn from the public domain for forest purposes by proclamation in 1893. The Cleveland is the southernmost of the 18 national forests in the California District, and extends in a broken line from the Santa Ana River to within 5 miles of the Mexican border.

The forest has a net area of 380,109 acres in three separate divisions—Trabuco, Palomar, and Descanso, lying in Orange, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. These divisions cover the mountainous land in the Santa Ana, Palomar, Cuyamaca, and Laguna ranges, and include the headwaters of the San Diego, Sweetwater, and San Luis Rey Rivers, and several other streams used extensively for irrigation.

The discovery and earliest settlement of California took place in the general region surrounding the Cleveland Forest. On September 28, 1542, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Portuguese navigator in the service of Spain, sailed into San Diego Bay and was the first white man to set foot upon the soil of Alta California. The Cabrillo National Monument on Point Loma marks the site of this historic event.

For many years after Rodriguez' memorable voyage, no permanent settlement was attempted by Spain; but in 1769 an expedition was sent out from

Lower California, and on July 16 of that year Father Junipero Serra dedicated, on Presidio Hill, in what is now Old Town, San Diego, the Mission San Diego de Alcalá,<sup>1</sup> the first of the 21 missions in the State, and began his colonization of California. Other missions soon followed, San Juan Capistrano being founded in 1776, San Luis Rey de Francia in 1798, San Antonio de Pala in 1816, and Santa Ysabel in 1822.



F-164438

The Santa Ana Mountains as seen from Glen Ivy Hot Springs

One of the earliest American settlers was J. J. Warner, a fur trader who came to California in 1831, became a naturalized Mexican citizen, and received in 1844 the grant of Agua Caliente, near Palomar Mountain, later called the Warner Ranch. The Indians of Agua Caliente were removed to the Pala Indian Reservation in 1903.

In Old Town, San Diego, is the spot where the United States flag was first raised in southern California, on July 29, 1846, by Capt. John C. Fremont.

<sup>1</sup> Mission San Diego de Alcalá was removed from the Presidio in 1774 to its present site, 6 miles further up Mission Valley.



The Indians of southern California, practically all of whom are of Shoshone and Yuma stock, were brought under the influence of the Franciscan fathers soon after the missions were founded, and taught to work at agricultural pursuits and even trades. In time they formed settlements of considerable size, possessed large herds of cattle and sheep, and controlled many square miles of land, all of which wealth was held in trust for them by the padres. In 1834 the Mexican Government secularized the missions, the community property was distributed among the Indians, and they were freed from the authority of their former masters. As a result their property was soon squandered, and because of the miserable conditions of living, their numbers decreased rapidly. The remnants of these tribes, which at one time numbered many thousands, are to-day found on the dozen or more Indian reservations scattered within and adjacent to the Cleveland Forest, the largest and most important of which are: Perchange, Pala, La Jolla, Cahuilla, Santa Ysabel, Los Coyotes, Capitan, Grande, and La Posta.

### ACCESSIBILITY

The three divisions of the Cleveland National Forest are surrounded by motor highways. The Descanso district is covered by a network of roads which make practically all parts accessible by automobile. In the Trabuco district good motor roads lead up a number of the larger canyons much frequented by vacationists.

Don't despise the lowly brush—it is valuable watershed cover. Protect it from destruction by fire.

The old Spanish trail from Yuma, Ariz., to San Diego, by way of Imperial Valley, crosses the southern end of the Laguna Mountains and connects with El Camino Real and other State highways running north to Los Angeles and south to Tiajuana in Lower California. From Laguna Junction, 48½ miles east of San Diego, a branch Forest Service road 14 miles long leads to the Laguna Recreation Area.

The Cleveland Forest region is also made accessible by two transcontinental railway lines which terminate at San Diego. The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe connects directly with Los Angeles and other southern California points, while the San Diego & Arizona Railway crosses the Mexican border for a distance of 45 miles, skirts the southeastern portion of the Cleveland Forest and passes through Carriso Gorge into the Imperial Valley.



Cattle grazing in the Cleveland National Forest

F-175252

## FOREST RESOURCES

The Cleveland National Forest was established primarily for the purpose of protecting the valuable watershed areas which it contains. There is some





U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
W. H. GREELY, FORESTER

# CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST CALIFORNIA

SAN BERNARDINO MERIDIAN

1926

Scale 1:62,500

## LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- Adjacent National Forest Boundary
- Good motor road
- Poor motor road
- Road not passable to motor
- Trail
- Supervisor's headquarters
- District Ranger station
- Ranger station
- Permanent lookout station
- Triangulation station
- Lookout and triangulation station
- House, cabin, or other building
- Main motor highway
- Improved Camp Grounds



timber in the Laguna and Palomar Mountains which is not economically valuable for lumber but is extremely valuable for recreational purposes and watershed protection. Several hundred head of cattle and some sheep belonging to owners who live in the neighborhood are grazed on the forest.



F-175277

**Henshaw Lake and Dam. Capacity, 66,337,000,000 gallons. An important source of domestic and irrigation water supply**

Large areas of irrigated lands and several towns and cities, including San Diego, are dependent on the water which is furnished by streams having their source within the Cleveland Forest. The brush-covered slopes and timbered summits and canyons absorb the winter rains and snows. Erosion is prevented by this cover, and the flow of streams is so regulated as to make the water supply permanent. It can be said that the very existence of the farms and fruit orchards and the development of many cities and communities in this region are vitally dependent on the permanence of these forest watersheds.

**The next fellow will appreciate your clean camp**

The watersheds of the Cleveland Forest supply water to the following reservoirs:

Reservoir	Capacity, gallons
Morena.....	17, 493, 000, 000
Barrett.....	13, 979, 000, 000
Upper Otay.....	834, 800, 000
Lower Otay.....	19, 072, 000, 000
Sweetwater.....	90, 700, 000
Henshaw.....	66, 337, 000, 000
Cuyamaca.....	4, 000, 609, 000
Total.....	121, 807, 109, 000

It is essential that these watersheds be protected from pollution, and strict observance of State sanitation laws is required of national forest users and visitors.

## RECREATION

The Cleveland National Forest is adjacent to the thickly settled coast region and within a few hours' drive from the Imperial Valley. It ranges in altitude from near sea level to 6,515 feet at Cuyamaca Peak, the highest point on the forest. The cool forests of pine, incense cedar, spruce, and black oak, together with the live-oak shaded canyons, clear lakes, sparking streams, and winding trails make it a delightful country to the motorist, camper, fisherman, and hiker, and especially to the resident of the coastal plain or the Imperial Valley region seeking rest and a change of climate.

In southern California water is the "gold" of agricultural prosperity and the "white coal" of industry. Green forests assure an unfailing water supply.



F-200554

The Colorado Desert as seen from Desert View, Laguna Recreation Area

## LAGUNA RECREATION AREA

Pursuant to the policy of the Forest Service to conserve and develop national-forest lands of outstanding recreational value for the use and enjoyment of the general public, the Secretary of Agriculture has designated 11,495 acres of the pine and oak clad land in the Laguna Mountains overlooking the Colorado Desert, as the Laguna Recreation Area.

A part of this recreation area has been divided into summer-home sites. Also a number of public camp grounds have been established. Through the cooperation of the Automobile Club of Southern California these camp grounds have been provided with tables, benches, fireplaces, water supply, and

sanitary conveniences. Three resorts within the recreation area provide accommodations for those visitors who do not wish to camp out.

Churches, the Shriners, the Boy Scouts, the Y. M. C. A., and other organizations have outing camps in the Laguna region. These camps, however, are not open to the public.

Many interesting motor, riding, and hiking trips may be made in the Laguna Recreation Area. From Desert View, Monument Peak, or Garnet Peak (the first named being accessible by automobile) one has a view to the north of the rugged snow-capped peaks of the San Jacinto Mountains; to the east, of the great Colorado Desert, Salton Sea, and Imperial Valley; to the south, of the purple mountains of Old Mexico; to the west, of green fields and farms, orange groves, and thriving cities; and in the distance, of the boundless waters of the Pacific stretching to the far horizon.

The Laguna Recreation Area is included within State Game Refuge 4E and hunting is prohibited. A herd of elk was turned loose in this region in 1919 and has made substantial increase. The deer, through protection, have become very tame, and the camera hunter will have many opportunities to get splendid pictures. Pigeons and tree squirrels are also numerous.

A daily stage operates between San Diego and the Laguna Recreation Area during the summer months. A post office has been established at Resort, and gasoline and oil, food supplies, and riding animals are available at a number of points.



A forest officer stationed at the Laguna Ranger Station, opposite the Resort post office, supervises all recreational use of the Laguna Area. All visitors are required to stop and register at this station.



F-208615

The fire alarm of the Laguna Recreation Area. Constructed from the rim of the driving wheel of a locomotive

## PUBLIC CAMPS AND RESORTS

In addition to the facilities of the Laguna region, five special camp grounds, accessible by automobile, have been established in the Cleveland Forest. These are at Trabuco Canyon, San Juan Hot Springs, Oak Grove, Pine Creek Bridge, and below Lake Henshaw on the San Luis Rey River. All of these grounds have camping and sanitary conveniences, and are regularly inspected by Forest Service officers to see that fire-prevention measures are observed, and that the health and safety of campers and residents are protected.

In southern California water is the "gold" of agricultural prosperity and the "white coal" of industry. Green forests assume an unfailing water supply.

Hotels and resorts are located at Alpine, Cuyamaca Lake, Descanso, Glen Ivy Hot Springs, Julian, Mesa Grande, Palomar Mountain, Pine Hills, Pine Valley, Ramona, San Juan Hot Springs, San Ysobel, Warner Hot Springs, and in the vicinity of Elsinore. Saddle and pack animals for trips into the mountains may be obtained at practically all resorts.



A public camp ground in the Cleveland National Forest

## SUMMER-HOME SITES

For those who desire a permanent summer camp in the mountains, the Forest Service has surveyed and subdivided into lots some 30 tracts in the various divisions of the Cleveland Forest. These lots may be rented at a cost of from \$15 to \$25 per year.

Information regarding available summer-home sites can be obtained from the local district ranger or the forest supervisor in San Diego.

## CLIMATE

The climate in the mountains of the Cleveland National Forest is ideal for an outing from May until November. During the heat of August and

September, occasional thunder showers in the higher regions cool the atmosphere. The nights are never too warm for comfort, and during the outing season this is a desirable region for camping.



A summer home in the Cleveland National Forest F-183577

## MOTOR TRIPS

Two of the most popular motor trips in the Cleveland National Forest region are described below:

**Rainbow Drive Circle Trip.**—Leaving San Diego, one travels north on El Camino Real, skirting Mission Bay, to La Jolla (14½ miles), the home of many writers, artists, and scientists. The cliffs at La Jolla have been honeycombed by the waves into many fantastic shapes, and at the north end contain a series of large caverns, the best known of which





is called "The White Lady," because the entrance is so shaped that the entering sunlight casts upon the inner wall the ghostly figure of a woman. A half mile north of La Jolla is the Scripps Institute for Biological Research, conducted as a part of the University of California and containing a public museum, aquarium, and scientific equipment adapted to the study of marine life.

Torrey Pines Park (22 miles) is a part of the San Diego park system and includes 290 acres dedicated to the preservation of the Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*), one of the rarest of all conifers. The Torrey pine is a low, crooked, sprawling tree, from 15 to 35 feet high, flourishing mainly on high, rugged bluffs near the ocean, where it assumes fantastic forms. This species was supposed to be indigenous only to this spot, but in 1888 it was discovered growing also on Santa Rosa Island, one of the Santa Barbara group. The tree is named in honor of Dr. John Torrey, of New York, and was discovered by one of Dr. Torrey's pupils, Dr. C. C. Parry, a naturalist connected with the Mexican boundary survey.

Northward, the highway follows the Pacific Ocean shore line, through Del Mar to Oceanside (43½ miles). Turning here to the right (east) the road leads to Mission San Luis Rey de Francia (48 miles), founded in 1798. Four miles beyond the mission is Guajome, once a typical Spanish ranch.

Continuing northeast along the arroyo of the San Luis Rey River, the road leads to the Pala Indian Reservation, where is located the Mission San Antonio de Pala (68 miles), founded in 1816. Following the road to Rincon, one comes to the mouth of





Erosion in Pine Valley due to overgrazing and fire, Cleveland National Forest

F-217622

Throwing away lighted matches or tobacco, or other burning material from an automobile or other moving vehicle is prohibited by State law.

Nigger Canyon (75 miles) and turns left up the steep Nigger Grade, named after "Nigger Nate," a well-known mountain character of bygone days.

The Rainbow Drive, starting at Nigger Canyon, runs for a distance of 26 miles over Palomar Mountain and connects with the Rincon-Santa Ysabel road at the Lake Henshaw Dam (101 miles). The drive along this summit is one of the most spectacular in southern California and offers an unsurpassed vista of mountains, valleys, and the Pacific Ocean. A resort is located on the mountain.

From the dam the road continues for about 5 miles along the edge of Lake Henshaw, the largest artificial body of water in the Cleveland Forest region, and connects with the main road from Santa Ysabel to Warner Hot Springs, located 10 miles to the northeast.

At Santa Ysabel (113 miles) is situated the Mission Santa Ysabel, founded in 1822. The original mission bells still swing from a crossbeam support outside the ruins. North of the mission lies the Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation. The return trip to San Diego can, if desired, be made from this point via Ramona, Lakeside, and El Cajon, distance 53 miles, the road being paved beyond the Mussey grade.

Beyond Santa Ysabel the road follows Coleman Creek to Julian (120 miles), surrounded by inclosed valleys noted for their fruit and honey. About 3 miles beyond the town the Imperial Valley and the Salton Sea may be seen from the road.

Continuing, one skirts Cuyamaca Lake, which supplies water to East San Diego and other valley



Thousands of acres of fertile farm lands and orange groves are dependent on the streams of the Cleveland National Forest for irrigation water.

F-164134

Under State and Federal laws, a fine of not more than \$500, or a jail sentence, may result from willful or negligent setting of fires in a national forest.

towns, passes to the east of Cuyamaca Peaks (6,515 feet), from which came the timbers for the construction of the Mission San Diego de Alcalá, and traversing the Cuyamaca Grant and Green Valley reaches Descanso (140 miles), from which point the Old Spanish Trail, paved from Willows (147 miles) westward, leads to San Diego (180 miles).

This trip can best be made in two days, stopping over night either on Palomar Mountain or at Warner Hot Springs.

**Old Spanish Trail Trip.**—The Old Spanish Trail, the southernmost transcontinental automobile route, begins at San Diego and extends to St. Augustine, Fla.

Leaving San Diego, one travels through La Mesa (11 miles), Grossmont, and El Cajon 15½ miles), in a country of fertile ranches, orange and lemon orchards, vineyards, and beautiful suburban homes. An ever-ascending grade leads through Alpine to Willows (32½ miles), and 2 miles beyond is the end of the pavement. Passing through the Valley de Las Viejas (valley of the old women), one climbs the Sweetwater grade, a fine, wide road overlooking Sweetwater River several hundred feet below, and passing Wildwood Glen and Los Terrenitos, turns to the right and skirts the quaint village of Descanso (41½ miles). Beyond this point the road leads through many beautiful groves of live oaks, ideal wayside camp sites, and on into Pine Valley. A short distance east of the valley one crosses the low divide separating the Pine Creek and Cottonwood Creek drainages, and at the summit reaches Laguna Junction (48½ miles), where begins the mountain



road leading to the Laguna Recreation Area. Continuing southeast from Laguna Junction the oak-shaded highway passes through Buckman Springs (51½ miles), La Posta (58 miles), and the Campo Indian Reservation to Jacumbia (76½ miles), noted for its hot springs.

Beyond Jacumbia lies the Mountain Springs grade, where the highway winds and twists between towering walls of reddish gray granite, clothed only in scattering sagebrush and desert vegetation. Be-



A giant Jeffrey pine in the Laguna Mountains

F-164479

low lie the snakelike curves of the road and in the distance the tawny Colorado Desert, through which a vivid strip of green marks the course of the high-line irrigation canal. Beyond the bridge at the mouth of Devils Canyon (92½ miles) one enters the desert and travels almost in a straight line to the thriving city of El Centro (120½ miles), the county seat of Imperial County, located in the center of the



Imperial Valley, one of the most fertile agricultural areas in California.

The trip into the Imperial Valley in the early spring when the desert wild flowers are in bloom is a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

## **FISH AND GAME**

A considerable portion of the Cleveland National Forest is covered by State game refuges. This makes for better hunting on the outside open areas, but hunting within the refuges is strictly prohibited. Deer, quail, and doves are fairly plentiful throughout the forest, and ducks may be found on the lakes and reservoirs during the winter months. The larger streams and reservoirs are stocked with both trout and bass, and fishing is usually good.

## **FIRE PREVENTION**

The fire hazard in the Cleveland National Forest is extremely high, particularly in the brush-covered foothill region. Long, dry summers, steep, rough slopes covered with very inflammable chaparral, and the liability of periodic high winds, combine to make forest protection a difficult problem. The increasing numbers of people who are using the national forests each year augment the chances of carelessness with fire and add to the difficulty of adequately safeguarding the brush and forest cover which is so valuable and so necessary for the protection of watersheds.

All persons who travel in the Cleveland Forest should know the economic value of water and the part which the forest cover plays in conserving and regulating this resource. They should be fully





Fire in the Deseanso District, Cleveland National Forest

aware of the highly inflammable nature of this cover and lend their best efforts to help prevent forest and brush fires.

The Modjeska Canyon fire of 1926 is an outstanding example of the disastrous results of human carelessness. This fire, which started from a trash pile near a summer home, burned over 12,000 acres of valuable watersheds in the Santa Ana Mountains, destroyed \$25,000 worth of private property, killed

many deer and other game animals, and cost the lives of two men. Over 500 fire fighters combated this fire for 10 days before it was controlled, and the cost of extinguishing the conflagration exceeded \$26,000. The damage caused by silt and debris from this burned watershed amounted to over \$500,000 the first winter following the fire.

As a fire-prevention measure, all visitors to the Cleveland National Forest are required to obtain a camp-fire permit before any form of outdoor fire, including fires in stoves burning gasoline, kerosene, or wood, may be started on Government land. Free camp-fire permits may be obtained from all Forest Service officers, as well as from automobile clubs and other authorized agents.

During seasons of unusual fire hazard, important watershed areas within the forest are posted and closed to all forms of public use and travel; smoking is prohibited, except in camps or at places of habitation; on certain recreation areas, fires are allowed only within the limits of improved camps; and each automobile and pack-train party camping in the Cleveland Forest must carry a shovel and ax suitable for fire-fighting purposes. Your cooperation in the enforcement of these regulations is requested.

Because of the rapid spread of fires in the brush-covered mountains, the big problem in controlling fires that do start on the Cleveland is to get them while they are still small and easily extinguished. To aid in the rapid discovery of fires, lookouts are maintained on three high peaks within and near the forest, and roads and trails are daily patrolled by forest guards. Frequent communication between

these stationary and moving fire-detection forces is maintained by means of the heliograph, the Cleveland being one of the few national forests in the United States in which the sun's rays are extensively used for the transmission of code fire messages.



F-178352

The heliograph is extensively used on the Cleveland National Forest to signal the discovery of fires to forest guards and rangers

The primary fire lookout on the Descanso district is on Cuyamaca Peak (elevation 6,515 feet), and a secondary lookout is maintained on Los Pinos Mountain (elevation 4,804 feet). Los Pinos Mountain may be reached by trail from the Corte Madera Valley, distance 2 miles.

Hot Springs Mountain (elevation 6,500 feet) is the main fire lookout on the Palomar district. This peak is readily accessible by a good horseback trail from Warner Hot Springs, distance 6 miles.

The fire lookout of the Trabuco district is situated on Santiago Peak (elevation 5,680 feet). The summit is reached by a trail from Glen Ivy Hot Springs, on the east side of the mountain, distance 8 miles, or from the Trabuco public camp ground to the south



of the mountain, via Holy Jim trail, distance 7 miles.

Visitors are welcome at all lookout stations, except at Cuyamaca Peak, which is on private land, and the officer acting as observer will be glad to show you how fires are detected and explain the fire-fighting organization of the Forest Service.



San Diego Boy Scouts planting forest-tree seedlings in the Cleveland National Forest

## ADMINISTRATION

The Cleveland National Forest is in charge of a forest supervisor, with headquarters in the Federal Building at San Diego. The district rangers in charge of the districts into which the forest is divided have their respective headquarters at Descanso, Oak Grove, and Corona. During the summer months a large force of temporary guards is employed to aid in fire detection and control, and in winter crews of men are employed in the construc-

tion of roads, trails, firebreaks, and other forest improvements.

All forest officers are glad to supply information on the forest and its resources, and to assist travelers in other ways, so far as their regular duties permit.

Be a real sportsman—help enforce the game laws

Break your match in two—and help break fire's back

## SIX RULES FOR PREVENTING FIRE IN THE FOREST

---

1. **Matches.**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
2. **Tobacco.**—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.
3. **Making camp.**—Before building a fire scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your camp fire. Keep your fire small. Never build it against trees or logs or near brush.
4. **Breaking camp.**—Never break camp until your fire is out—dead out.
5. **Brush burning.**—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.
6. **How to put out a camp fire.**—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. If you can't get water, stir in earth and tread it down until packed tight over and around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead.

Forests mean health and wealth—protect them from fire.

THE RESOURCES OF THE CLEVELAND  
NATIONAL FOREST ARE FOR YOUR  
USE AND ENJOYMENT. HELP PROTECT  
THEM FROM DAMAGE AND DESTRU-  
TION BY FIRE      ~      ~      ~      ~      ~

---



---

CAMP-FIRE PERMITS ARE REQUIRED IN  
ALL NATIONAL FORESTS IN CALI-  
FORNIA. ISSUED FREE BY U. S. FOREST  
SERVICE OFFICERS, STATE FOREST RANG-  
ERS, AUTOMOBILE CLUBS, AND OTHER  
AUTHORIZED AGENTS      ~      ~      ~      ~